

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /005 W
-----010749 141134Z /12

R 131600Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4805

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 LOME 2936

LIMDIS

FOR AF ONLY

EO 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: SHUM TO
SUBJ: 1978 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON TOGO

REF: A STATE 212861 B STATE 23809

1. THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS A REVISION OF THE FINAL TEXT OF THE
1977 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON TOGO WHICH WAS TRANSMITTED BOTH
TO THE CONGRESS AND THE GOT (REF B). REVISION IS IN FORM
OF MODIFICATIONS TO TEXT EXCEPT FOR SECTION TWO WHICH HAS
BEEN REWRITTEN TO RESPOND MORE FULLY TO REQUIREMENTS REFTEL
A. WE HAVE ALSO INCLUDED A CLASSIFIED COMMENTARY FOR BACK-
GROUND USE ONLY. DECLASSIFICATION OF ANY OF THE CLASSIFIED
BACKGROUND COMMENTARY SHOULD BE REFERRED TO POST.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

2. SUMMARY-DELETE QTE THERE WERE ARRESTS IN THE
SPRING...PUBLICLY PROFESSING LOYALTY. QTE

3. RESPECT FOR INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON INCLUDING FREEDOM
FROM:

A. TORTURE-DELETE EXISTING TEXT. REPLACE AS FOLLOWS:

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THE TOGOLESE AUTHORITIES ARE SPECIFICALLY ENJOINED FROM
USING TORTURE ON DETAINEES. THE PRESIDENT HAS STATED
THAT HE DISAPPROVES OF THE USE OF TORTURE. SOME CASES OF
UNAUTHORIZED TORTURE HAVE PROBABLY OCCURRED ON THE INITIATIVE
OF LOW-RANKING PERSONNEL.

B. CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT-

ADD TO EXISTING TEXT QTE FOOD, SANITATION AND MEDICAL CARE
AT LOME'S MAIN DETENTION FACILITY ARE HUMANE. QTE

C. ARBITRARY ARRESTS OR IMPRISONMENT-REPLACE THE WORDS
QTE THIS YEAR QTE WITH QTE IN 1977 QTE.

D. DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL-DELETE LAST SENTENCE
QTE PERSONS DETAINED... QTE AND REPLACE WITH QTE PUBLIC
TRIALS ARE REPORTED IN THE PRESS PN DETAIL AND ARE FREQUENTLY
WELL ATTENDED. QTE

E. INVASION OF THE HOME-DELETE EXISTING SENTENCE AND
REPLACE WITH QTE SECURITY OFFICIALS MAY CONDUCT PHYSICAL
SEARCHES OF PRIVATE RESIDENCES WITHOUT WARRANTS, BUT SUCH
SEARCHES ARE INFREQUENT. QTE
END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN SECRET LIMDIS XGDS-2

COMMENT ON INTEGRITY OF PERSON: THE PRIMARY EXCEPTION TO
WHAT WAS REPORTED LAST YEAR WAS A THIRD HAND REPORT ON
THE DETENTION AND TORTURE OF ROGER ATARO ARREGBA IN
SEPTEMBER 1977 WHICH HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED (SEE MEMCON
SENT TO AF/W). THE CASES OF UNAUTHORIZED TORTURE REFERRED
TO ABOVE ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN INSTIGATED BY LOW LEVEL
MILITARY PERSONNEL.

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4. GOVERNMENT POLICIES RELATING TO THE FULFILLMENT OF
SUCH VITAL NEEDS AS FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCA-
TION.
TOGO'S 1978 BUDGET REFLECTS THE HIGH PRIORITY ACCORDED
TO EDUCATION, HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE. WHILE THE BUDGET
INCREASE OVERALL WAS TEN PERCENT IN 1978 THE BUDGET ALLO-
CATIONS FOR EDUCATION, HEALTH AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INCREASED 29 PERCENT, 42 PERCENT AND 16.5 PERCENT
RESPECTIVELY. THE BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR THE MINISTRIES CONCERNED
WITH EDUCATION, HEALTH AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT NOW COMPRISE
NEARLY 37 PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATIONS. THESE
ALLOCATIONS CONTINUE A PATTERN BEGUN IN THE 1976 BUDGET
AND ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS PRIORITIES OF
THE THIRD FIVE YEAR PLAN (1976-1980). THE BUDGET INCREASES
IN BASIC HUMAN NEEDS REFLECT SUCH LINE ITEMS AS AN INCREASE
OF 200 IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S MEDICAL STAFF, A MAJOR
EXPANSION IN THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND, FOR THE
FIRST TIME, A SEPARATE LINE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT IN THE

BUDGET FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS.
WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN TOGO INCLUDE THE RIGHT TO OWN
PROPERTY, TO CONTROL ALL MONEY EARNED AND TO RECEIVE
MATERNITY LEAVE BENEFITS.
THE ONE NATIONAL LABOR UNION, THE CONFEDERATION
NATIONALE DES TRAVAILLEURS DU TOGO, WORKS TO PROMOTE ECO-
NOMIC RESEARCH, WORKER'S EDUCATION AND LABOR COOPERATIVES.
THE CNTT THIS YEAR GAINED THE RIGHT TO HAVE A MEMBERSHIP
FEE CHECK-OFF SYSTEM FOR SALARIED WORKERS. WORKERS ARE
PROTECTED BY A LABOR CODE, A MINIMUM WAGE LAW, GUARANTEES
AGAINST TERMINATION WITHOUT CAUSE AND A NATIONAL SOCIAL
SECURITY SYSTEM.
TAXES FOR SALARIED WORKERS ARE DEDUCTED AUTOMATICALLY.
NON-SALARIED INDIVIDUALS ARE TAXED ON THE BASIS OF DECLARED
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 LOME 2936

LIMDIS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS INSTITUTED A FIVE-YEAR LAND REFORM
PROGRAM, WHICH HAS PROGRESSED SLOWLY TO DATE. THE BASIC
TENET OF THE PROGRAM IS THAT ONE MUST UTILIZE THE LAND OR
LOSE IT. WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF LAND REFORM AND THE GOVERN-
MENT'S RIGHT OF EMINENT DOMAIN, PROPERTY RIGHTS ARE
OBSERVED. SOME COMPENSATION IS GIVEN IN ALL CASES.

PRESIDENT EYAFEMA HAS ENDEAVORED TO REDUCE TRADITIONAL DISPARITIES AMONG REGIONAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS. A KEY CONCEPT OF THE NATIONAL PARTY IS THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON REGIONALISM AND TRIBALISM SO THAT ALL TOGOLESE CAN ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY. IN PRACTICE, RECTIFICATIONS OF PAST DISPARITIES HAS RESULTED IN THE ACTIVE INCLUSION OF MANY SUCH GROUPS IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY. THE GOVERNMENT'S STRONG OPPOSITION TO CORRUPTION IS APPARENT IN NUMEROUS CASES OF ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF ALLEGED OFFENDERS. BUREAUCRATIC CORRUPTION DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE WIDESPREAD, AND THE BENEFITS OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS WHICH EMPHASIZE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS EVIDENTLY REACH THE POOR.

5. RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES:

A. FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, SPEECH, PRESS, RELIGION AND
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ASSEMBLY.

AFTER QTE FREEDOM OF RELIGION IS RESPECTED QTE INSERT QTE FOR MAJOR RELIGIOUS SECTS. DURING THE SPRING OF 1978 THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY RECOMMENDED THAT, IN VIEW OF THE GROWING NUMBER OF RELIGIOUS SECTS IN TOGO, NUMEROUS SMALL RELIGIOUS SECTS BE INTERDICTED AS POSSIBLE THREATS TO PUBLIC ORDER. QTE AFTER QTE LABOR UNIONS ARE INFLUENCED BUT NOT DIRECTLY CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT QTE ADD QTE ALTHOUGH THE LABOR CODE ESTABLISHES AN ELABORATE MECHANISM FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, ARBITRATION AND, AS A LAST RESORT, THE USE OF THE STRIKE, WAGE INCREASES ARE GENERALLY THE RESULT OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE. 153
END UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMENT: UPON BEING FORMALLY NOTIFIED THAT THEIR SECT HAS BEEN INTERDICTED, MOST RELIGIOUS LEADERS HAVE APPARENTLY DECIDED TO LOWER THEIR PROFILE, SUSPEND PUBLIC WORSHIP AND POSSIBLY NEGOTIATE THEIR FUTURE. INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT COOPERATIVE WITH REGARD TO FLAG SALUTING, ETC, SUCH AS JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, ARE BELIEVED TO BE HARRASSED BY THE AUTHORITIES.

AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY THE PRESIDENT REFUSED TO ACCEPT A STRIKE BY DOCK WORKERS WHICH WOULD HAVE SEVERELY DAMAGED TOGO'S RELATIVELY FRAGILE ECONOMY. WE HAVE NOT HEARD ANY REPORTS OF HANDS BEING CUT OFF FOR STEALING AS THREATENED. INDIVIDUALS EMPLOYED AT THE PORT HAVE EXPRESSED RELIEF THAT THE TAKEOVER OF THE PORT BY THE MILITARY HAS REDUCED THEFT.

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B. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY, FOREIGN
TRAVEL AND IMMIGRATION: ALTER LAST PHRASE TO READ QTE IS
ALLOWED WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS QTE
END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN SECRET LIMDIS XGDS-2

COMMENT: WE ARE AWARE OF SOME CASES IN WHICH MARXIST-
ORIENTED PROFESSORS AT THE UNIVERSITY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE
TO OBTAIN PASSPORTS.
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C. FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS:
BETWEEN QTE BUT ALL TOGOLESE QTE AND QTE ARE ENCOURAGED
TO ACTIVELY DEMONSTRATE QTE INSERT QTE INCLUDING WOMEN
QTE. AFTER QTE TO IMPLEMENT PARZYSGBJECTIVES QTE INSERT
NEW SENTENCE QTE THERE ARE CURRENTLY FOUR WOMEN ON THE
22 MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PARTY, AND ONE WOMAN
HAS CABINET LEVEL RANK. QTE

6. GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE AND RECORD REGARDING INTERNATIONAL
AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS
OF HUMAN RIGHTS: NO CHANGE. KIRKPATRICK

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